

Valid Time Event Code:

An Aid To The Delivery of NWS Text Products

Implementation Plan

Office of Climate/Water/Weather Services

March 2002 - *rev.1*

To stay up to date as the plan changes, see the online version at
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/vtec.pdf>

Valid Time Event Code: An Aid To The Delivery of NWS Text Products

Document changes for March 2002:

- 1) Updated VTEC Implementation dates
- 2) Added Appendix D: Special Requirements for VTEC within marine products (includes VTEC coding examples).
- 3) Updated examples to include final VTEC date/time group code.

Document changes for August 2001:

- 1) Changed implementation dates
- 2) Noted upcoming changes in VTEC format for the date/time group to include month, year
- 3) noted change to methodology for assigning the Event Tracking Number

Description of VTEC Elements

VTEC is a code which will describe the content (what/where) of watches/warnings/advisories. This complements the UGC string, which describes the impacted geography (counties/zones). VTEC permits selective dissemination and reception of NWS text products. The code string is located on the line(s) directly below the UGC.

The distinction between an “event” and a “product” must be clearly understood when using the VTEC. An **event** is defined as a specific combination of phenomena and significance level to which the public is being alerted. A **product** is the entire message issued to the public, which may contain information regarding more than one event. For example, if “heat” is the phenomena and the significance level is an “advisory”, then a “heat advisory” is the event and an NPW is the product used to alert the public. Similarly, a blizzard warning and a lake effect snow watch are each events. However, the public is alerted to them via the WSW product.

Time line for Implementation in Products

Implementation of VTEC within text products:

October 1, 2002 (AWIPS version 5.2.1) - Incorporates the expanded VTEC code.

Public Products:

Severe thunderstorm Warning (SVR)
Tornado Warnings (TOR)
Winter Storm watches/warnings/advisories (product category WSW)
Non-Precipitation watches, warnings, advisories (NPW)
Severe Weather Statement (SVS)
Special Weather Statements (SPS)
Watch County Notification (WCN - implementation spring 2003)

Fire weather:

Red Flag Warnings, Fire Weather Watch (RFW)
Fire Danger Statements (RFD)

Marine products:

a) Routine:

Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF)
Nearshore Waters Forecast (NSH)
Open Lakes Forecast (GLF)
Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF)

b) Event Driven:

Special Marine Warnings (SMW)
Marine Weather Statements (MWS)
Coastal Flood Watches/Warnings/Statements (CFW)
Lakeshore Flood Warnings and Statements (LSH)
Hurricane Local Statements (HLS)

Hydrologic products (Created in WWA/Warngen):

Flood Watches and Flash Flood Warnings (FFA and FFW)
Flood Warning (Long duration widespread flooding - FLW)
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisories (FLS)
Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
Flood Potential Outlooks (ESF)

Nov/Dec 2002 (AWIPS version 5.2.2): (see format proposal in Appendix B for hydrologic products created in RiverPro)

Flood Warning (Rivers) (FLW)
Flood Statement (Rivers)& (FLS)
River Statement (RVS)
River Summary (RVA)
River Forecast Product (RVD)

THE VTEC LINE

A VTEC line describes the event details (actions/office/valid time). If multiple events are addressed, each event is coded on a single line (two events are described by VTEC strings on two lines). The VTEC string(s) is(are) located on the line immediately below the UGC. Any listing of counties affected or other words identifying the area affected by the segment shall begin on the line following the VTEC line(s).

The generic VTEC Format:

/aaa.cccc.pp.s.####.ymmmd_Bd_BThhnnZ-ymmmd_Ed_EThhnnZ/

where “aaa.cccc.pp.s.####” is the “event”, and the coding is interpreted as:

aaa	- action	d _B d _B	- event beginning date/time group
cccc	- office id	d _E d _E	- event ending date/time group
pp	- phenomena	hh	- hour
s	- significance	nn	- minute
####	- event tracking number	yy	- year
mm	- month	Z	- Zulu time designator
T	- time designator		

The “T” and “Z” are two non-numeric characters and follows the FIPS/ANSI/ISO standard date/time format (FIPS 4-2:1998/ANSI X3.30-1997/ISO 8601:2000). The 'T' indicates the beginning of the time value and the 'Z' indicates a UTC time value.

The “/” and “.” in the generic format are delimiters for ease in coding and decoding of VTEC and facilitate future changes to the code, if necessary. They also make it easier to visually read VTEC. The examples below will be updated once the software is expected to provide the expanded date/time group.

The **Action** (aaa) identifies the issuance status of the event. It specifies whether the event is new, continued, extended, canceled, corrected, or expired, or if an issuance is for test purposes.

Action Code Definitions:

NEW (NEW) - Used for an initial issuance of an event or for an event that has replaced another event for the same area.

CONTINUED (CON) - Used when providing updates to an existing event, where no changes were made to the area, valid time period, or Significance category. No changes were made to the valid time period of an existing event. This action is typically used with watches combined with other active events. Also, it would be used when providing updates to ongoing events.

EXTENDED IN TIME (EXT) - The valid time period of an existing event has been

made longer or shorter by changing either the Event Beginning or Ending Date/Time Group(s).

EXTENDED IN AREA (EXA)- The valid area of the watch/warning/advisory has been expanded from the initial issuance of the W/W/A.

EXTENDED IN BOTH TIME AND AREA (EXB) - The valid time period and valid area of the W/W/A have been extended.

CANCELED (CAN) - Used when an event has been canceled prior to its Event Ending Date/Time Group.

EXPIRED (EXP) - Used when the Event Ending Date/Time Group has been reached and the event is no longer active.

CORRECTION (COR) - A change to the coding or area affected by a previous message was in error, or an error in spelling or wording usage, etc., was made and is corrected.

TEST (TES) - The event message has been issued strictly for testing purposes.

The **Office ID** (cccc) is the 4 letter identifier indicating the NWS office with the primary or normal responsibility for the affected area. The cccc shall be the modernized SID (e.g., KLWX vs. WBC). The office ID will be the same as the office identified in the Mass News Disseminator (MND). Any NWS office providing backup service shall use the primary office's cccc.

The **Phenomena** (pp) identifies the type of weather or non-weather occurrence to which the public is being alerted. Appendix A contains a list of Phenomena.

The **Significance Code** (s) identifies the seriousness (level of threat) of the weather or non-weather occurrence to which the public is being alerted. The significance may be at the level of a warning, watch, advisory, outlook, or statement. Appendix A contains a list of Significance Elements.

The **Event Tracking Number** (#####) explicitly identifies which existing watch, warning, advisory, etc. is being issued, continued, canceled, or extended (in space, time, or both). If a watch, warning, advisory, etc. is new, a new Event Tracking Number is assigned. The Event Tracking Number shall be assigned by the AWIPS software for each new advisory, watch, or warning -- without any forecaster intervention. Each office has its own set of Event Tracking Numbers. If backup service is required from another office, the primary office's Event Tracking Number(s) will be used.

Important Note: AWIPS Builds 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 do not account for potential false increments of the Event Tracking Number. If a forecaster creates a NEW watch, warning, and/or advisory product with WWA or WarnGen, sends it to the AWIPS Text Workstation, but decides to regenerate an updated product by adding/deleting/ reconfiguring a county/zone(s) without transmitting the product, then a false increment of the Event Tracking Number will occur. WWA or WarnGen assumes the product was transmitted and falsely increments the Event Tracking Number. The false increment only occurs with the first issuance of the product. Subsequent updates (WSWs/NPWs) will not produce a false increment.

For products with multiple events within one category (WSW, NPW, CWF, RFW), each event within the category will have its own tracking number (each segment in a new message will have its own tracking number). Within a WSW, each blizzard warning will have its own event tracking number, each winter storm warning will have its own event tracking number, etc.

Example:

WSW issued January 15 might have the following segments and corresponding event tracking numbers:

Event	Event Tracking Number
1) Blizzard warning	0002 (second blizzard warning of the year)
2) Winter storm warning	0004 (fourth winter storm warning of the year)

Two weeks later, a new system causes the issuance of a WSW with the same order of segments, with the corresponding event tracking numbers as follows:

Event	Event Tracking Number
1) Blizzard warning	0003 (third blizzard warning of the year)
2) Winter Storm Warning	0005 (fifth winter storm warning of the year)

The number will be sequential for each event type during each calendar year, with two important exceptions:

- 1) In Watch County Notification (WCN) products, the Storm Prediction Center watch number shall be automatically inserted by the AWIPS software. This will allow WCN products from adjacent Weather Forecast Offices to carry the same Event Tracking Number for the same watch.
- 2) The Severe Weather Statement shall carry the phenomena, significance, and Event Tracking Number of the Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Warning it follows:

Initial tornado warning:

SSC013-061815- (UGC code line)

/NEW.cccc.TO.W.0003.020416T1730Z-020416T1815Z/ (VTEC code line)

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED

TORNADO WARNING

(rest of text)

Follow-up Severe Weather Statement that continues the tornado warning:

SSZ0243-161815- (UGC code line)

/CON.cccc.TO.W.0003.000000T0000Z-020416T1815Z/ (VTEC code line)

SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE STATE

(rest of text)

The Event Beginning and Ending Date/Time Groups (d_Bd_Bhhmm and D_ED_EHHMM) respectively, identify the valid time period of the event in Universal Coordinated Time (UTC).

- The Event Beginning Date/Time Group identifies when the Event (outlook, watch, warning, etc.) will become effective. This will not necessarily correspond with the date/time of the product issuance.
- The Event Ending Date/Time Group identifies when the Event will no longer be in effect. This will not necessarily correspond to the product purge date/time contained as part of the UGC string.

Special coding of the D_BD_BHHMM group is used when an action has been taken after the event has begun. When an action has been taken after the event has begun (continue, extend in space/time, cancel, expire) a string of 10 zeros with the T & Z (000000T0000Z) will replace the Event Beginning Date/Time Group. This will prevent an accidental invalidation of an ongoing event. For the same reason, updates to an event (e.g., further information on a watch or warning that was issued previously) shall use "000000T0000Z" in the Event Beginning Date/Time Group to indicate that it is ongoing (i.e., not new) and not a new issuance.

Product Purge Time vs. Event Ending Time

The product purge time is the time when a message should no longer be used and is the time to be included in the UGC date time group. In the short fuse warning programs, this is normally also the time when a warning expires. In the long fuse watch/warning programs, the product purge time is the time when a "fresh" message can be expected by the customers. For example, for a winter storm watch issued on a Tuesday morning at 5 a.m. local time on the second of the month, for a watch in effect for tonight and Wednesday, the product purge time is not the time when the watch expires (for example, using this case, 030103T2100Z), but rather a time later on Tuesday (e.g., 030102T1600Z) when new information should be available for the local forecaster to update the information contained in the WSW message. Typically this is 6 to 8 hours from the product issuance time. The product purge time is flexible and selectable by the forecaster.

Examples of Event Timing Codes: Following are examples of date/time group coding when the event is issued prior to or within the valid time periods.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PRIOR TO VALID TIME</u>	<u>WITHIN VALID TIME</u>
NEW	/NEW.KRLX.BZ.A.0002.021222T1700Z-021223T0400Z/	N/A (would be CONTINUED)
CONTINUED	/CON.KCLE.LE.A.0357.021018T1500Z-021019T0200Z/	/CON.KCLE.LE.A.0357.00000T0000Z-021019T0200Z/
EXTENDED	/EXT.KLWX.WS.A.0002.030116T1800Z-030116T2200Z/	/EXT.KLWX.WS.A.0002.0000000000Z-030117T0100Z/
CANCELED	/CAN.KMKX.SN.W.0125.030207T2200Z-030208T0930Z/	/CAN.KMKX.SN.W.0125.000000T0000Z-030208T0930Z/
EXPIRED	N/A	/EXP.KMSO.WC.Y.0009.000000T0000Z-021118T0800Z/
TEST	/TES.KLOT.HT.Y.0000.021208T1430Z-021208T1500Z/	/TES.KLOT.HT.Y.0000.000000T0000Z-021226T1500Z/

Note 1: When a NEW event is effective upon issuance, the Event Beginning Date/Time Group is

coded with the release time of the product. For example:
“/NEW.KEAX.ZR.A.0087.021214T1252Z-021214T1430Z/”

Note 2: The Event Tracking Number shall be set to 0000T0000Z for all test products.
VTEC Examples: **AWIPS Build 5.2.1**

A Single Event:

VAZ088>98-261300-
/NEW.KAKQ.FG.Y.0001.02126T0700Z-021226T1400Z/

Interpretation: A dense fog advisory was issued. It is valid on the 26th from 07 to 14Z.

MEZ001>030-NHZ001>010-013-014-021800-
/CAN.KGYX.BZ.A.0021.000000T0000Z-030102T1900Z/

Interpretation: A blizzard watch was canceled on the 2nd effective at 19Z.

OHZ010-081445-
/TES.KCLE.HT.W.0000.030408T1415Z-030408T1445Z/

Interpretation: A test heat warning was valid on the 8th from 1415 to 1445Z.

Multiple Events:

SCZ034-046-048>050-50123-122030-
/NEW.KCHS.CF.W.0108.021112T1530Z-021113T0100Z/
/CON.KCHS.HW.W.0107.000000T0000Z-021112T1900Z/

Interpretation: A coastal flood warning was issued. It is valid from 1530Z on the 12th until 01Z on the 13th. A high wind warning was continued and is valid until 19Z on the 12th.

NYZ006>008-301230-
/EXT.KBUF.WS.W.0099.030130T1400Z-030101T0500Z/
/CON.KBUF.WC.Y.0099.000000T0000Z-030130T1430Z/

Interpretation: A Winter Storm Warning was extended before the event began. It is valid from 14Z on the 30th until 05Z on the 1st. A wind chill advisory was continued. It is valid until 1430Z on the 30th.

A Sample Product:

WWUS41 KBUF 300628
WSWBUF

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BUFFALO NY
230 AM EST WED NOV 30 2002

...A LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR EASTERN LAKE
ONTARIO COUNTIES TODAY THROUGH EARLY TUESDAY MORNING...
...THE WINTER STORM WARNING FOR WESTERN NEW YORK HAS BEEN
CANCELED...

WEST WINDS WILL DEVELOP LATE THIS MORNING AND BRING LAKE
EFFECT SNOW TO COUNTIES EAST OF LAKE ONTARIO.

NYZ006>008-301230-
/CAN.KBUF.WS.W.0247.000000T0000Z-021130T1230Z/
/NEW.KBUF.LE.A.0248.021130T1400Z-021201T0500Z/
NORTHWEST COAST-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...OSWEGO...WATERTOWN

...A LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR EASTERN LAKE
ONTARIO COUNTIES TODAY THROUGH EARLY TUESDAY MORNING...
...THE WINTER STORM WARNING FOR WESTERN NEW YORK HAS BEEN
CANCELED...

SNOWFALL AMOUNTS UP TO 8 INCHES MAY OCCUR BY MIDNIGHT WITH
HIGHER TOTALS POSSIBLE IN LOCAL AREAS.

FIVE INCHES OF SNOW FELL ACROSS THE AREA SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND
EVENING.

\$\$
etc.

Note: For marine forecasts that are the sole sources of watchers, warnings, and advisories, the Valid Time Event Code will cover all time periods, even those without watches, warnings, and advisories (coded as a routine marine forecast (ROU) in those cases). See Appendix D for special requirements and VTEC coding examples.

Marine Weather:

COASTAL AND OFFSHORE FORECAST FOR HAWAII
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HONOLULU HI
6 AM HST TUE FEB 15 2003

HAWAIIAN WATERS WITHIN 100 NAUTICAL MILES

SYNOPSIS...HIGH NORTH OF HONOLULU PERSISTING.

PHZ150-152200-
/CON.PHFO.CF.Y.0005.030215T1600Z-030216T0400Z/
/ROU.PHFO.MA.F.0000.030215T1600Z-030217T0400Z/
HAWAIIAN WATERS
6 AM HST TUE FEB 15 2003

...A HIGH SURF ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE NORTH SHORES OF ALL
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS...

(Rest of text)

Fire Weather:

WWUS85 KBYZ 231903
RFBWIL

MTZ016>039-041-WYZ026-027-099-240500-
/NEW.KBYZ.FW.W.0004.030523T1900Z-030524T1900Z/

RED FLAG WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BILLINGS MT
1150 AM MST THU MAR 23 2003

...RED FLAG WARNING FOR MONTANA FIRE ZONES 119 THROUGH 122...124
THROUGH 133 AND WYOMING FIRE ZONE 284 FOR THIS AFTERNOON INTO EARLY
EVENING FOR STRONG WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITIES...

(Rest of text)

See Appendix B for a (proposed) example of a hydrologic product.

APPENDIX A - Listing of VTEC Elements

ACTIONS

NEW	NEW EVENT
CON	EVENT CONTINUED
EXT	EVENT EXTENDED (TIME)
EXA	EVENT EXTENDED (AREA)
EXB	EVENT EXTENDED (BOTH TIME AND AREA)
CAN	EVENT CANCELED
EXP	EVENT EXPIRED
COR	CORRECTION
ROU	ROUTINE
TES	TEST
UPD	UPDATE

SIGNIFICANCE ELEMENTS

W	WARNING
A	WATCH
Y	ADVISORY
S	STATEMENT
O	OUTLOOK
F	FORECAST
N	SYNOPSIS

PHENOMENA

BZ	BLIZZARD	RS	RAINFALL AND SNOWMELT
WS	WINTER STORM	DM	DAM OR LEVEE FAILURE
WW	WINTER WEATHER	GO	GLACIAL DAMMED LK. OUTB
SN	HEAVY SNOW/SNOW	SR	STORM
LE	LAKE EFFECT SNOW	HF	HURRICANE-FORCE MARINE
BS	BLOWING/DRIFTING SNOW	TR	TROPICAL STORM
SB	SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW	HU	HURRICANE
IP	SLEET	LW	LAKE WIND
ZR	FREEZING RAIN	LS	LAKESHORE
FZ	FREEZE	CF	COASTAL FLOOD
FF	FREEZING FOG	SV	SEVERE THUNDERSTORM
FR	FROST	TO	TORNADO
WC	WIND CHILL	FW	FIRE WEATHER (RFW, FWW)
HW	HIGH WIND	RH	RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD
FG	FOG	VO	VOLCANO
SM	SMOKE	AV	AVALANCHE
HT	HEAT	TS	TSUNAMI
DU	BLOWING DUST	MA	MARINE (SMW, MWS)
FL	FLOOD	SC	SMALL CRAFT
IJ	ICE JAM FLOOD	GL	GALE
ER	EXCESSIVE RAINFALL	ZP	ICE ACCRETION
SM	SNOWMELT	LO	LOW WATER

It is anticipated the VTEC may be included in additional text products in the future. Therefore, additional codes may be added.

Appendix B: Proposed format within hydrologic products:

Hydrologic Products- A second line of VTEC code will be used containing Flood severity, Immediate Cause, timing of flood beginning, crest, and end, and whether the flood will be near a record

Generic Format

/s.ic.d_sd_shhmm.d_cd_chhmm.d_ed_ehhmm/

<p>Flood severity:</p> <p>None- n</p> <p>Minor- 1</p> <p>Moderate- 2</p> <p>Major- 3</p> <p>Unknown- u</p>	<p>Immediate Cause (phenomena will be FL for Flood):</p> <p>ER- Excessive Rainfall</p> <p>SM- Snow melt</p> <p>RS- Rain and Snow melt</p> <p>DM- Dam or Levee Failure</p> <p>GO- Glacial Lake Dam Outburst</p> <p>IJ - Ice Jam</p> <p>IC- Rain and/or Snow melt and/or Ice Jam</p> <p>UU - Unknown</p>
<p>Timing:</p> <p>Start: d_sd_shhmm</p> <p>Crest: d_cd_chhmm</p> <p>End: d_ed_ehhmm</p>	<p>“Record or Near record”:</p> <p>NO - A record flood is not expected</p> <p>NR - Near record or record flood expected</p> <p>UU - Flood without a period of record to compare</p>

Example:

WGUS41 KCAR 241532
FLWCAR
MEZ002-250315-
/NEW.KCAR.FL.W.0003.030424T1530Z-030428T0000Z/
/1.ER.251600.270000.280000.NO/

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
FLOOD WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CARIBOU ME
1127 AM EDT MON APR 24 2003

...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A FLOOD WARNING FOR THE
ST JOHN RIVER AT FT KENT...

AT 11 AM EDT...THE RIVER STAGE AT FORT KENT WAS 15.33 FEET. FLOOD
STAGE IS 20 FEET. THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS HAVE ALLOWED THE RIVER TO
RISE. THE RIVER IS EXPECTED TO GO ABOVE FLOOD STAGE AT 11 AM EDT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25TH AND IS EXPECTED TO CREST AT 21.1 FEET AT 7 PM WEDNESDAY.

These products are proposed to be implemented in the following hydrologic products:

Product category FLW, River Flood Warning

Product category FLS, Flood Statement

Product category ESF, Flood Potential Outlook

Product category ESS, Extended-Range Streamflow Statement

Appendix C: The Future Weather Forecast Office Watch County Notification

The Watch County Notification message will handle all aspects (issuance, clearing counties, continuing counties, cancel, expiration) of Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch issuances at the Weather Forecast Office.

WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION (WCN) Example

ZCZC SHVWCNSHV
TTAA00 KSHV 251930

WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION FOR WATCH #1002
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SHREVEPORT LA
230 PM CDT SUN 26 MAY 2003

ARC061-081-133-270100-
/CAN.KSHV.TO.A.1002.000000T0000Z-030527T0100Z/

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN SHREVEPORT HAS
CLEARED A PORTION OF TORNADO WATCH #1002.
COUNTIES CLEARED FROM THE TORNADO WATCH INCLUDE:

IN ARKANSAS:

HOWARD LITTLE_RIVER SEVIER
\$\$

ARC027-057-073-091-099-139-LAC013-015-017-027-031-081-119-TXC037-063-067-183-
203-315-343-365-459-270100-
/CON.KSHV.TO.A.1002.000000T0000Z-030527T0100Z/

TORNADO WATCH #1002 REMAINS VALID UNTIL 700 PM CDT SUNDAY FOR THE
FOLLOWING COUNTIES AND PARISHES:

IN ARKANSAS:

COLUMBIA
MILLER

HEMPSTEAD
NEVADA

LAFAYETTE
UNION

IN LOUISIANA:

BIENVILLE
CLAIBORNE
WEBSTER

BOSSIER
DE_SOTO

CADDO
RED_RIVER

IN TEXAS:

BOWIE
GREGG
MORRIS

CAMP
HARRISON
PANOLA

CASS
MARION
UPSHUR

THIS INCLUDES THE CITIES OF...SHREVEPORT...TEXARKANA...AND EL DORADO.
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Appendix D: Special Requirements for VTEC within marine products.

1. Special Requirement for VTEC in CWF Issuances. There is a special requirement for each marine zone in the CWF if a Hurricane Watch, Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Watch, or Tropical Storm Warning is in effect. The Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watches or Warnings shall cancel all other warnings and advisories and shall be the sole VTEC even if the product is valid for only part of a marine zone. If more than one Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch or Warning is valid for different parts of the marine zone, the higher priority product shall represent that zone:

- Priority 1 (highest) - Hurricane Warning
- Priority 2 - Tropical Storm Warning
- Priority 3 - Hurricane Watch
- Priority 4 - Tropical Storm Watch

The only exception to the above is that a Tropical Storm Warning and a Hurricane Watch should be used at the same time.

2. Special Requirement for VTEC in OFF Issuances. There is a special requirement for each marine zone in the OFF if a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is in effect. The Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning will cancel all other warnings and shall be the sole VTEC even if the product is valid for only part of a marine zone. If a Hurricane and Tropical Storm Warning are valid for different parts of the marine zone, the Hurricane Warning will represent that zone.

VTEC Coastal and Marine Examples:

Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF):

PZZ750-152230-
/CON.KSGX.GL.W.0005.021215T1030Z-021216T0400Z/
/ROU.KSGX.MA.F.0000.021216T0400Z-021217T2230Z/

Interpretation: A Gale Warning continues until 0400z on the 16th. No watches, warnings, or advisories are in effect from 0400z on the 16th to 2230z on the 17th (end of Day 1-3 forecast section).

Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF):

ANZ088-082000-
/ROU.KWBC.MA.F.0000.030808T0730Z-030809T0100Z/
/NEW.KWBC.HU.W.0003.030809T0100Z-030810T2000Z/

Interpretation: No warnings are in effect until 0100z on the 9th.
A Hurricane Warning was issued. It is in effect from 0100z on the 9th to 2000z on the 10th (end of Day 1-3 forecast section).

Open Lake Forecast (GLF):

LOZ060-112000-
/CON.KBUF.MA.W.0001.000000T0000Z-021111T2200Z/
/ROU.KBUF.MA.F.0000.021111T2200Z-021112T1700Z/
/NEW.KBUF.GL.W.0003.021112T1700Z-021112T2200Z/
/NEW.KBUF.SR.W.0002.021112T2200Z-021113T0800Z/
/ROU.KBUS.MA.F.0000.021113T0800Z-021113T2000Z/

Interpretation: A Special Marine Warning continues until 22z on the 11th. No watches, warnings, or advisories are in effect from 22z on the 11th to 17z on the 12th. A Gale Warning was issued. It is in effect from 17z on the 12th to 22z on the 12th. A Storm Warning was issued. It is in effect from 22z on the 12th to 08z on the 13th. No watches, warnings, or advisories are in effect from 08z on the 13th to 20z on the 13th (end of Day 1-3 forecast section).

Nearshore Forecast (NSH):

LHZ347-348-122130-
/ROU.KAPX.MA.F.0000.021912T1500Z-021914T1000Z/

No watches, warnings, or advisories are in effect from 15z on the 12th to 10z on the 14th (end of Day 1-2 forecast section).